

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Local Food and Farm Program

Purpose and History

The [Local Food and Farm Program](#) was established by the 2011 General Assembly. The General Assembly appropriates funding for the Program to the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALs) and requires the DALs to maintain a cost-sharing agreement to support a Program Coordinator position in the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University. The Program, within the Leopold Center, supports the development of local food businesses and markets. The Program facilitates communication between farmers, food entrepreneurs, and consumers, while encouraging coordination among various government agencies, universities, organizations, and businesses. In addition, the Program funds special projects in local food markets. The Program Coordinator is required to file an annual report with the General Assembly that details Program progress.

Goals

The following are goals established by the General Assembly:

- Promote the expansion of local food production, including:
 - Livestock, eggs, milk, fruit, vegetables, grains, herbs, honey, and nuts.
 - Processing, canning, or preserving Iowa-grown products.
 - The distribution and marketing of Iowa-grown products to surrounding states.
- Increase consumer and institutional spending on Iowa-grown foods.
- Increase the profitability of local farmers and businesses in the local food market.
- Increase the number of jobs associated with producing, processing, distributing, and marketing local food.

Funding History

The General Assembly appropriated \$75,000 to the DALs beginning in FY 2012 from the Environment First Fund. That amount has been appropriated annually since then; however, the funding has been from the General Fund.

Related Statute

Iowa Code chapter [267A](#)

Revised August 22, 2016

More Information

Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship: <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

LSA Staff Contact: Deb Kozel (515-281-6767) deb.kozel@legis.iowa.gov